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SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Letter dated 18 December 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Georgia and Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration on the Development of Cooperation between Georgia and Turkmenistan, signed by the President of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze and the President of Turkmenistan, Mr. Saparmurat Nyazov, on 5 December 1997, during President Shevardnadze's official visit to Ashgabat.

May we ask your kind assistance in circulating the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 38, 81 and 97.

(Signed) Aksoltan T. ATAEVA
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of
Turkmenistan to the United Nations

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of
Georgia to the United Nations

ANNEX

[Original: Russian]

Declaration on the development of cooperation between Georgia and Turkmenistan

Georgia and Turkmenistan, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, guided by the provisions of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation of 17 August 1993, which has served as a basis for the further enhancement of the traditionally close relations between Georgia and Turkmenistan,

Aware of the imperatives of the age, which dictate the necessity of developing and intensifying cooperation between the two States,

Striving to make the fullest possible use of the material and intellectual potential of the two countries and to develop approaches and create effective mechanisms for the practical implementation of specific activities for the development and intensification of cooperation between our countries,

Confirming their adherence to the universally accepted principles and norms of international law, the purposes and principles of the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the other basic documents of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE),

Declare that:

(1) The Parties are convinced that the development and enhancement of relations on the basis of the principles of equality, independence and respect for each other's sovereign rights opens up new possibilities for achieving a higher level of mutually advantageous cooperation;

(2) The Parties will constantly consult one another on current international issues and support each other in every way in international and regional organizations;

(3) The Parties consider that consistent respect for the principles contained in the basic documents of the United Nations, OSCE and other international and regional organizations is an extremely important factor in the strengthening of confidence and security and in guaranteeing human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(4) The Parties are convinced that a guarantee of international peace and security is afforded by respect for the principles of state sovereignty, quality of rights, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and peaceful settlements of disputes, as well as for the other universally accepted norms of international law;

(5) The Parties strongly condemn acts of aggression, separatism, and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, which threaten the territorial

integrity and security of States, destabilize and undermine the foundations of civil society and are directed against human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(6) Turkmenistan, on the basis of its policy of permanent neutrality, takes an understanding attitude towards the steps being taken by Georgia to maintain the unity of the State as a vital condition for the strengthening of an atmosphere of peace and security in the region;

(7) The Parties confirm that they regard the Commonwealth of Independent States as an acceptable consultative mechanism for the maintenance and development of links between the participating countries, and will promote its strengthening on the basis of the universally accepted principles of international law and in accordance with their legislation and national interests;

(8) The Parties will do everything possible to promote the development of trade and economic cooperation between the countries of the Black Sea and Caspian basins and between the regional organizations of Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Economic Cooperation Organization;

(9) The Parties note the need for fuller and more intensive utilization of the considerable potential for bilateral trade and economic cooperation based on the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the World Trade Organization, and will promote in every way the renewal of the traditional economic links on new terms;

(10) The Parties expressed their readiness to cooperate and their consent to the development of a multi-modal transport and pipeline infrastructure and to the construction of export pipelines to transport hydrocarbon raw materials to international markets, including the establishment and functioning of the Transport Corridor: Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) programme, a project of global significance and a vital factor in the accelerated all-round development of the Trans Caucasus and Central Asian regions;

(11) In accordance with the provisions of bilateral treaties, and also on the basis of their long-term national interests, the Parties intend to promote in every way cooperation in various spheres of the economy, science and culture;

(12) In accordance with the traditionally friendly relations between their two peoples and on the basis of the need to maintain and develop them, the Parties will promote the establishment of optimum working and living conditions for Georgians resident in Turkmenistan and Turkmens resident in Georgia, and also to ensure their constitutional rights;

(13) The Parties will promote the development of interparliamentary links, and cooperation, and exchange of experience both in the sphere of legislative activity and in relation to the establishment and formation of democratic institutions;

(14) The Parties will regularly exchange experience and information on socio-economic development and the course of the reforms being conducted in their countries in various spheres.

DONE at Ashgabat on 5 December 1997 in the Georgian, Turkmen and Russian languages, all three texts being equally authentic.

(Signed) Eduard SHEVARDNADZE
President of Georgia

(Signed) Saparmurat NIYAZOV
President of Turkmenistan